

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 084900
ORIGIN SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 084900

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT RABAT 2033 ACTION SECSTATE INFO KINSHASA
LAGOS DATED APR 14:

QTE: S E C R E T RABAT 2033

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO, NI, MO

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN BELIEF THAT USG BEHIND MOROCCAN INTERVENTION

REF LAGOS 4084

1. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE A NON-STARTER TO TRY TO ENLIST
MOROCCO IN ROLE OF TRYING TO DISABUSE FMG OF ANY IMPRESSION IT
MAY HAVE THAT USG INSTIGATED MOROCCAN TROOP SUPPORT FOR
ZAIRE. IN OUR VIEW, UG IS BEST ADVISED TO UNDERTAKE THAT
TASK ON ITS OWN BEHALF. MOROCCANS ARE HIGHLY SENSITIVE ON
ZAIRE ISSUE AND FEEL STRONGLY THAT THEIR MILITARY INTERVENTION
IS BOTH JUST AND NECESSARY. FURTHERMORE, GOM IS CONCERNED THAT

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USG IS NOT DEMONSTRATING SUFFICIENT FIRMNESS IN COUNTERING
SOVIET/CUBAN THREAT IN AFRICA. FOR EXAMPLE, FOREIGN MINISTER
LARAKI TELEPHONE ME APRIL 14 TO SAY THAT GOM IS DEEPLY CONCERNED
OVER (A) COMMENTS BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG ON APRIL 11 RE CUBA
BRINGING STABILITY IN ANGOLA, AND (B) WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS
"WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT THAT ZAIRE PROBLEM DOES NOT
REPRESENT AN EAST-WEST CONFRONTATION." (WE HAVE SEEN NO REPORT

OF SUCH A STATEMENT.) HE ALSO NOTED THAT THESE COMMENTS
COUPLED WITH STRONG SOVIET PUBLIC REACTION (MOSCOW 4498) ARE
NOT AT ALL HELPFUL TO GOM EFFORTS TO HELP PRESERVE ZAIRE'S
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY FROM EXTERNAL AGGRESSION.

2. MOROCCANS CLEARLY WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND
AN EFFORT TO USE THEM WITH FMG IN EFFECT TO EMPHASIZE THE
DISTANCE BETWEEN THEIR AND OUR POSITIONS. ANOTHER FACTOR IS
THAT MOROCCAN-NIGERIAN RELATIONS HAVE IN ANY CASE BEEN SOMEWHAT
COOL BECAUSE OF SAHARA ISSUE. WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO JUDGE
NIGERIAN REACTIONS, BUT WONDER WHETHER FMG LIKELY TO BELIEVE
MOROCCANS IF OUR OWN REPEATED, PUBLIC DISAVOWALS OF INVOLVEMENT
ARE NOT ACCEPTED IN LAGOS.
ANDERSON UNQTE VANCE

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